ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

MUD CREEK

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Hopewell Church, Jefferson County, Ala.

OCTOBER 14, 15, 16, 1893.

A complete Roll of the Delegates appears in the Tabular Statement at the end of these Minutes.

The next session will be held with Liberty Church, commencing on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1894.

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MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-Second Annual Session of the Mud Creek Baptist Association.

Hopewell Church, October 14, 1893.

The Twenty-Second Annual Session of the Mud Creek Baptist Association was held with Hopewell Church October 14, 15 and 16, 1893.

The appointee to preach the Introductory Sermon being absent, Elder B. M. Waldrop delivered it at eleven o'clock on Saturday, from the 29th verse of the tenth chapter of the Book of Numbers, which reads thus: "Come thou and go with us and we will do thee good, for the Lord has spoken good concerning Israel." First hymn in Baptist Psalmody, 1,294. After services adjourned one hour for refreshments.

EVENING SESSION.

The body was called to order by the Moderator by singing Hymn No. 982 in Psalmody. Prayer by E. H. Tuggles, after which the Moderator announced the body in order and proceeded to call for the letters from the various churches, and appointed Elder B. M. Waldrop and Bro. J. J. Waldrop to read the same. After the letters were read and the delegates' names enrolled, the Association went into an election for Moderator, and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of A. White as Moderator, and A. J. Sumners as Clerk.

The Moderator then called for petitionary letters. Received one with delegates from Union Grove Church, Walker county, Alabama.

The Moderator then opened the door for correspondence. Received Elder B. M. Waldrop and Bro. J. T. Robertson from Birmingham Association; J. A. Markham from Harmony Association; E. H. Tuggle from North River Association.

The Moderator proceeded to appoint committees, as follows:

DEVOTION—C. L. Vines, T. B. Hood, W. T. Collier.
DOCUMENTS—C. B. Hood, D. Morris, Wm. Black.
NOMINATIONS—D. M. Waldrop, D. R. Davis, I. J. Hood.
FINANCE—L. T. Sanford, J. H. Knight, H. A. Quinn.
HOME MISSIONS—S. A. Parsons, J. W. Howton, C. L. Vines.
TEMPERANCE—I. V. Salter, W. A. Robertson, J. V. Norris.
SABBATH SCHOOLS—R. H. Vines, W. P. Tapp, W. H. Batson.
EDUCATION—I. V. Salter, J. H. Knight, J. C. Hood.
DECEASED MEMBERS—G. N. Miller, W. McFerren, R. F. Vines.
INDIGENT MEMBERS—B. Salter, J. T. Black, S. A. Parsons.
EXAMINATION OF ASSOCIATIONAL BOOK—L. T. Sanford, T. P. Vanderver, J. H. Malden, with the Clerk.

Returned Correspondence, as follows:

To the Birmingham Association: S. A. Parsons, J. E. Parsons, J. Collier, W. H. Batson, A. J. Sumners, A. White.
To Harmony Association: S. A. Parsons, A. White.
To North River Association: T. P. Vanderver, J. H. Malden.
To Mt. Zion Association: A. J. Sumners, J. E. Parsons, J. H. Knight.

Prayer by A. J. Sumners.
Adjourned to meet Monday morning at nine o'clock.

SUNDAY'S MEETING.

By request of Elder A. White, the appointee, the Missionary Sermon was preached by Elder H. A. Key, at eleven o'clock on Sunday. First Hymn 947 in Psalmody. Prayer by A. White. Subject: The clause of the second verse of the second chapter of St. Matthew, which reads thus: "For we have seen His star." Dismissed one hour.

EVENING SERVICES.

Two O'clock.—Services began from the stand by Thomas Burell, by singing the 80th Hymn in Psalmody. Prayer by B. M. Waldrop. Text found in St. Matthew, 16th chapter, 18th verse, which reads as follows: "And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Followed by B. M. Waldrop. Benediction by T. P. Vanderver.

MONDAY MORNING.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The house was called to order by singing 523 in Psalmody. The 8th division of the Psalms was read for a lesson. Prayer by S. A. Parsons. Received correspondents again, as follows: Elder H. A. Key and J. W. Snow, G. W. Taff, all from North River Association.

The Rules of Decorum and Abstract of Principles was read by Bro. D. M. Waldrop.

The Moderator then called for reports of the various committees.

COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your Committee on Documents, after examining the letters from the different churches, find only three requests for the next session—that of Liberty, New Bethel and Concord.

C. B. HOOD, Chairman.

NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, find a request from various churches for the next session, to-wit: Concord, Liberty, New Bethel. We recommend that the next session be held with Liberty Church; also, that the Introductory Sermon be preached by Elder G. B. Vines; T. P. Vanderver, alternate; and, also, that the Missionary Sermon be preached by Elder J. N. McFalls; J. H. Malden, alternate. Liberty Church is sixteen miles northwest of Bessemer. Also, that the Association convene Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1894.

D. M. WALDROP, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, have received from the different churches the following:

For Minutes	$13.45
For Associational purposes	9.25
Total	$22 70

Respectfully submitted.

L. T. SANFORD.

COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Home Missions, submit the following: We recommend that we as a body of Christians here in the world were com-

missioned by our Savior to teach the Gospel plan of Salvation; we believe that it is the duty of every one to contribute to the support of the ministry financially and to read and consult the Word of God and live more in the discharge of our Christian duty thereby that the Word may have its effect on the world, thereby the world will see the good works of the Christian love, thereby it will be as fire in stubble.

S. A. PARSONS, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following: We recommend that we, as a Baptist people, be temperate in our lives, not only the great evil of strong drink, but brethren, let us be temperate in our families and in our communities, speaking good of each other and not evil, letting our light so shine that it may penetrate the hearts and minds of others that God's name may be glorified thereby. We prayerfully recommend that this body shall continue to do all it can to prevent dram drinking which renders so many homes unhappy.

J. V. SALTER, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, submit the following: We find by careful examination that out of the fourteen churches composing this Association, we find only three engaged in the Sunday School work, viz: Concord, Leadocia and Sardis; therefore, we say to those churches to go on and use all their influence in getting others to join in and help them in teaching the Word of God to the young people of the land. Seeing the evils that immediately surround us, we are surprised to see so so many of our churches so negligent about this all-important work. There is not anything more reasonable for us to believe than that all Christian people do favor the Sunday School work; therefore, we are the more surprised that people who claim to be Christian would oppose the Sunday work. Therefore, brethren, let us let the light that is in us shine that the rising generation may see its rays, not only in protracted meetings, but show all the year round. Let us establish Sunday Schools, take our children by the hand, and say to them, Go with us. Hoping you all will give a careful thought, we leave the matter in the hands of God.

R. F. VINES, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

We, your Committee on Education, report that there is a greater necessity for education of the young and rising generation of our land than there has ever been before. The rapid development of our country has brought and still continues to bring evil influences, against which we cannot successfully contend without preparing our minds for the same. We should all work together as one strong and organized body to establish a

better and stronger system of schools in our midst, so that we may make home more interesting to the boys and girls of our country that they may have the privilege of attending the very best of schools at home. We should have special regard to the employing of teachers of good moral and Christian character who will exert the utmost of their ability at all times to improve the education and morals of their pupils and who will do all they can to point the young and tender minds of the youth to the ways of righteousness. We should always guard against the employment of teachers who are simply teaching for employment or for the money there is in the profession and who have no regard whatever for the welfare of the pupils. We should also do all in our power to promote the education of the orphan children of our land. We should also guard their young minds against follies and fashions and styles. As the teacher occupies the place of the parents, we sincerely hope that the time is close at hand when teachers who don't realize the position they occupy may be set aside and their places filled by active, energetic men and women, who will go forth in discharge of their whole duty. We also believe in educating the young ministers of our land, so that they may be enabled to preach the Gospel with a better understanding We take pleasure in recommending to this body Howard College, a Baptist institution, situated at East Lake.

I. V. SALTER, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MEMBERS.

We, your Committee on Deceased Members, submit the following: We find by examination of the letters from the churches there have been several deaths since our last session. Leadocia Church, Sisters Parthenia Poston and Susie Jane Butler; Rock Creek Church, Bro. E. F. Waldrop, Sister S. E. Smith; Hopewell Church, M. E Tuggle; Mt. Ida Church, Sarah Roberts; Liberty Church, Gemina Vines; Mud Creek Church, Sarah C. Hammonds.

G. N. MILLER, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON INDIGENT MEMBERS.

We, your Committee on Indigent Members, don't find from any of the letters from the churches any member who is destitute of necessities of support as the Apostle James describes.

B. SALTER, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EXAMINATION OF ASSOCIATIONAL BOOK.

We, your Committee on Examination of Associational Book, have looked over it and find it correct.

L. T. SANFORD, Chairman.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

Received of Finance Committee:

For Minutes	$10.15
For Associational purposes	11.25
Total	$21.40

Paid to Clerk $8.00 for his services, and to the Moderator the remainder of Associational funds.

J. J. WALDROP, Treasurer.

Dismissed one hour for dinner.

EVENING SESSION.

The house was called to order by the Moderator, and proceeded to finish the business of the body. Bro. S. A. Parsons was appointed Treasurer. The Moderator called for motions and resolutions.

Resolved, That we give the Clerk $10.00 for his services.

Resolved, That the Clerk have as many minutes published as the funds will pay for.

Resolved, That we tender a vote of thanks to Hopewell Church, and the good citizens around, for the kind and hospitable manner in which we were entertained during our stay with them.

After singing, and taking the parting hand, the closing prayer was offered by T. P. Vanderver.

Adjourned to meet with Liberty Church on Friday before third Sunday in October, 1894.

A. WHITE, Moderator.

A. J. SUMNERS, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association.

ART. 2. It shall be formed of delegates from all the churches which may connect themselves with this body.

ART. 3. Any church may be admitted into this body by general consent of the members present at any regular session.

ART. 4. Any church may withdraw from this body at her own discretion, on proper application of dismission.

ART. 5. This body shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, nor infringe on any of their internal rights, but merely be considered as an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal affairs.

ART. The churches in the union shall transmit each annual session of the Association with a written communication specifying the names of their messengers and the state of their church since last session.

ART. 7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates. Any church failing to represent herself as above described, shall state her reason at the next session.

ART. 8. Newly constituted churches shall be admitted into our union by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, their reception shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 9. The Association when convening shall be governed by a regular and proper rule of decorum, which she is authorized to alter or amend according to her own views.

ART. 10. At every session of the Association a Moderator shall be chosen by, and from among the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that all the rules of decorum be strictly observed, and take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall be chosen in the same manner, whose duty it shall be to make proper and correct minutes of the Association.

ART. 11. The Association shall have power to drop from her union any church which may violate the Constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

ART. 12. The Association shall furnish the churches with minutes according to the funds sent up for said purpose by the churches.

ART. 13. Queries that immediately concern the union of the churches, or introduced by a proper motion of the body, may be taken up and decided by this body.

ART. 14. The Association shall have a Treasurer, whose duty it shall be to receive all moneys from the hands of the Finance Committee and pay it out at the order of the Association.

ART. 15. There shall be an Association book provided, in which the minutes of every annual session shall be recorded.

ART. 16. The Association shall not adjourn any session until it shall have finished all the business on hand, unless it be in extraordinary cases.

ART. 17. Minutes of Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, if necessary, before the session rises.

ART. 18. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session when two-thirds of the members may deem it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

ART. 2. The Moderator shall be deemed a judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time; also, it shall be his duty to see that the rules of decorum are attended, and to take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before the body.

ART. 3. Any member not satisfied with his decision on any point of order may appeal to the Association on the same day that the decision is made, but at no other time.

ART. 4. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a true record of the transactions of the Association.

ART. 5. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise and address the Moderator.

ART. 6. The Moderator when addressed for leave of speech shall signify the same by naming them or otherwise.

ART. 7. No member shall be interupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under consideration, or use words of personal reflection, or with a view of calling to order for some particular purpose, and any motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association unless withdrawn by him who made it.

ART. 8. Every case taken up by the Association after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall put the question, and if necessary, the sense of the body may be taken by rising to their feet.

ART. 9. When anything is taken up by the Association it shall first be decided upon before another is proposed.

ART. 10. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave of the same.

ART. 11. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our address to each other.

ART. 12. The names of the members shall be called as often as necessary.

ART. 13. No person shall be indulged in any practice that has a tendency to interrupt in any time of public speech, or other practices that would dishonor the Association.

ART. 14. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speech as others, provided he appoint some member to take his seat while he is speaking, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided, then he shall give the casting vote.

ART. 15. No member of this body shall be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject without first obtaining leave of the Association, unless to explain.

ART. 16. Any person breaking the Rules of Decorum shall be reproved, at the discretion of the Moderator, but only on the day the breach is made.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, three in one.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God and the only true rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

4. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by his own free will and holiness.

5. We believe in the doctrine of election through santification of the Spirit and belief of truth.

6. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the merits of Jesus Christ.

7. We believe the Saints will persevere in grace and not finally fall away.

8. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only proper subjects, and do conscientiously believe that the true mode of baptism is immersion.

9. We believe in the resurection and general judgment.

10. We believe the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordinances, only such as have been called of God, and regularly baptized and approved by the church, and come under the imposition of hand by presbytery.

12. We believe that none but believers have a right to the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

STATISTICAL TABLE MUD CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1893.

CHURCHES	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Dismissed.	Expelled.	Restored.	Received by Letter.	Died.	Total Membership.	Minute Funds.	Associational Funds.
Concord	J. N. McFall	Earnest	D. G. Knight, R. F. Vines, J. V. Norris	..	..	1	—	..	..	57	$ 1.25	$ .75
Freewill	A. White	Quinton	C. B. Hood, H. A. Quinn, J. H Malden	12	2	2	2	3	2	38	1.00	1.00
Hopewell	A. White	Toadvine	A. White, D. R. Davis, L. T. Sanford	..	..	..	..	..	1	64	1.00	.60
Leadocia	T. P. Vanderver	Quinton	A. J. Sumners, T. P. Vanderver, D. Morris	14	5	1	3	..	2	40	1.00	1.10
Mud Creek	J. N. McFall	Rasburgh	D. W. Howton, S. F. Riley, S. A. Parsons	5	..	..	2	3	1	72	1.50	.50
Mt. Ida	A. White	Wilmington	G. N. Miller, W. A. Robertson, J. H. Knight	..	..	..	..	..	1	29	.75	.75
New Bethel	T. P. Vanderver	Quinton	J. C. Hood, L. B. Hood, W. J. Skelton	..	..	3	..	..	..	24	.75	.85
Oak Grove	O. J. Waldrop	Ezra	W H. Batson, J. W. Howton, J. M. Hyche	..	4	..	..	2	..	72	.75	.75
Pleasant Hill	E. L. Nichelson	Toadvine	I. J. Hood, B. Salter, James Salter	2	..	..	..	..	..	30	1.00	....
Rock Creek	G. B. Vines	Toadvine	D. M. Waldrop, W. D. Riley, W. McFearin	1	1	1	..	3	2	77	1.00	.50
Smithville	A. Batson	Toadvine	Jesse Snow, E. B. Smith, Jr., J. Franklin	..	3	..	..	..	..	24	1.00	.50
Sardis	R. H. Blake	Adger	J. E. Parsons, John Sattefield, E. L. Parsons	*	..	..	..	..	..	36	.....	.....
Union Grove	T. P. Vanderver	Cordova	Wm. Black, W. P. Taff, J. T. Black	11	..	..	..	..	...	27	.70	.70
Village Creek	J. Collier	Adamsville	J. Collier, J. R. Riggins, W. T. Collier	11	..	..	..	..	..	27	.50	.25
Liberty	A. White	Short Creek.	C. L. Vines, E. B. Vines, I. V. Salter	15	5	..	1	4	1	95	1.25	.75
				71	20	8	8	15	10	676	$13.45	$9.00